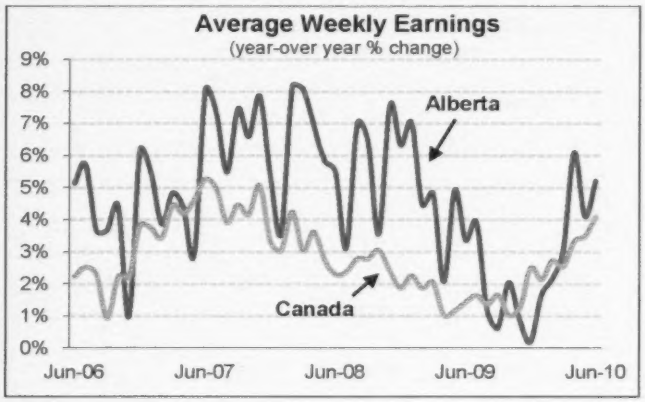
Average Weekly Earnings

Wages increase in June…

After declining in May, average weekly earnings in Alberta increased by 1.9% in June, the strongest monthly growth recorded since February. This growth pushed average weekly earnings to $1,003.53 (seasonally adjusted) which continues to be the highest in the country and nearly 18% higher than the national average of $853.50 per week. On a sector basis, declines in the mining and oil and gas extraction (-2.7%) and construction (-0.8%) sectors were offset by strong gains in the management of companies and enterprises (15.8%) and information and cultural industries (11.8%). Compared to a year earlier, average weekly earnings in Alberta were up 5.2%, the fourth consecutive month that the province's year-over-year wage growth has exceeded the Canadian average.

Nationally, average weekly earnings grew by 0.7% in June with Quebec (2.6%), Newfoundland (1.9%) and Alberta (1.9%) experiencing the strongest growth. British Columbia (-0.6%) and Prince Edward Island (-0.2%) were the only provinces to experienced mont -over-month declines in wage growth between May and June.



Retail Sales

Sales experience third consecutive monthly decline…

The value of retail sales in Alberta declined in June by 0.2% in June to just over $4.8 billion (seasonally adjusted). With May's retail trade figures being revised downward, June marked the third consecutive month in which retail sales declined in Alberta. However, even with the weakening, through the first half of the year retail sales were still 4.9% higher in the province than they were in the first six months of 2009. Nationally, retail sales increased by 0.1% with sales at motor vehicle and parts dealers as well as at electronics and appliance stores experiencing the largest increases.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/C$)	
August 27, 2010	94.82
August 20, 2010	95.24
2010-11 YTD	96.85
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
August 26, 2010	$ 73.36
August 19, 2010	$ 74.43
2010-11 YTD	$ 77.54
Nymex Natural Gas C$/MMBtu *	
Near-month Contract	
August 27, 2010	$ 3.93
August 20, 2010	$ 4.32

*Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Bankcruptcy

Personal bankruptcies increase in June…

The total number of bankruptcies (personal and business) in Alberta increased to 801 in June from the 707 recorded in May. While the number of business bankruptcies declined by 12 to 23, the number of personal bankruptcies increased from 672 in May to 778 in June. With the increase, Alberta averaged 0.21 personal bankruptcies per thousand people in June, well below the national average of 0.35 personal bankruptcies per thousand people.

US Economy

Second quarter US growth revised sharply …

While US real GDP growth for the second quarter was initially estimated at 2.4% (annualized), as expected by most analysts that estimate was negatively revised this week to be 1.6% (annualized). This downgrade was due largely to a net export deficit that was higher than initially forecast and a smaller gain in inventories.

Bernanke updates the Fed's economic outlook …

In a speech on the economic outlook, US Federal Reserve chair Ben Bernanke noted that he expected growth to continue in the second half of 2010 in the US, but at "a relatively modest pace." Bernanke opened the door to further quantative easing, with the Fed willing to consider making large-scale purchases of financial assets if signs of deflation flare.

Current Economic Indicators

Population	2008	2009	2010YTD*	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,596	3,688	3,707	--	--	3,725	--	--	--
% change	2.4	2.6	2.1	--	--	1.6	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	15,317	23,006	-6,832	--	--	312	--	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	20,039	20,074	1,477	--	--	6,758	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	18,536	19,058	-4,332	--	--	48	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	2,013	1,988	1,987	1,973	1,969	1,979	1,994	2,000	2,009
% change	2.8	-1.3	-0.3	-1.0	-1.0	-0.4	0.3	0.6	1.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	6.6	6.9	6.9	7.5	7.4	6.6	6.7	6.3
Participation Rate (%)	74.7	74.3	73.2	73.0	73.2	73.4	73.2	73.3	73.1
Average Weekly Earnings ($) NEW!	923.21	950.13	987.40	985.99	993.04	993.17	985.03	1,003.53	--
% change	6.0	2.9	3.7	2.1	3.0	6.1	4.4	5.2	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	3.1	-0.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.1	0.6	1.5
Excluding food and energy	2.1	1.4	1.0	1.3	0.8	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.8
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[2] (quarterly)	13.2	-9.8	-2.3	--	-5.0	--	--	0.6	--
Farm Product Price Index	11.5	-11.3*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Crops	26.7	-22.9*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Livestock	2.1	-0.8*	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	29.2	20.0	29.0	28.6	34.4	29.5	29.7	27.0	29.2
% change	-39.6	-31.6	50.5	142.4	168.8	128.7	107.7	33.0	50.5
New Housing Price Index	0.7	-9.0	-0.2	-1.4	-0.2	1.0	1.6	1.9	--
Edmonton	1.0	-11.2	-2.2	-3.3	-2.4	-1.0	-0.1	0.6	--
Calgary	0.6	-6.7	1.9	0.4	2.0	2.9	3.1	3.2	--
MLS Average Resale Prices ($ 000's)	351.4	340.5	351.9	348.2	357.9	359.9	355.5	345.4	352.0
% change	-1.5	-3.1	6.2	5.1	10.3	7.7	7.1	4.0	3.1
Edmonton	330.8	319.1	324.0	327.6	341.4	332.1	317.9	303.9	322.1
% change	-2.0	-3.5	4.2	2.6	11.0	8.7	4.4	2.1	1.5
Calgary	401.1	384.3	400.0	395.1	398.2	401.3	411.5	403.8	404.0
% change	-2.9	-4.2	6.7	5.2	9.0	6.4	9.2	5.8	5.5
Retail Sales[3] NEW!	0.2	-8.3	4.9	6.6	11.2	5.3	2.1	3.8	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	-7.3	-21.7	9.4	24.0	15.3	6.9	4.7	13.2	--
Consumer Bankruptcies NEW!	6,066	9,986	4291	637	776	744	672	778	--
% change	27.2	64.6	-15.2	-9.8	-18.4	-11.2	-20.7	-23.8	--
Business Sector									
Rigs Drilling	236	128	183	339	219	62	56	118	199
% change	-2.1	-45.6	55.2	42.3	103.5	51.9	76.4	99.0	135.5
Goods Exports (customs based)	34.6	-37.3	20.0	19.6	18.5	27.8	50.1	17.7	--
Energy	42.5	-41.4	33.4	36.7	32.8	48.8	82.9	24.4	--
Agriculture	32.0	-10.2	-16.1	-20.1	-9.6	-27.6	-5.0	-9.0	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	17.2	-8.1	-17.3	--	-17.3	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	7.0	-21.6	8.1	4.3	9.9	12.2	11.9	10.4	--
Wholesale Trade[4]	8.7	-14.1	-1.5	-12.2	-2.1	6.3	5.5	7.7	--
Building Permits	-16.5	-14.2	25.0	69.1	41.4	28.1	-11.8	31.4	--
Residential	-31.5	-11.8	88.6	172.1	91.3	64.6	90.9	50.6	--
Non-residential	3.7	-16.3	-16.4	4.3	2.0	0.0	-57.7	14.4	--
Business Bankruptcies NEW!	447	405	200	30	48	37	35	23	--
% change	-0.4	-9.4	-2.4	-31.8	54.8	54.2	2.9	-30.3	--

Government of Alberta ■
Finance and Enterprise

Alberta ■

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30).

[2] Average of Calgary and Edmonton

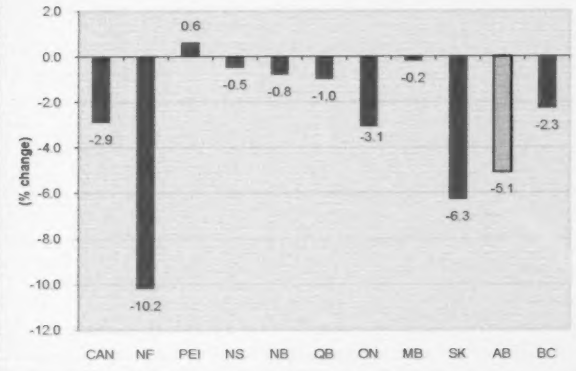
[3] The Retail Sales series was revised on April 23, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

[4] The Wholesale Trade series was revised on April 21, 2010 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins.

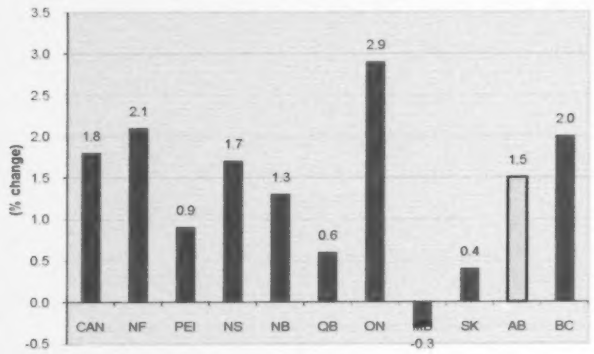
Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association), Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors) and Bankruptcies (Office of the Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada).

Current Economic Indicators by Province

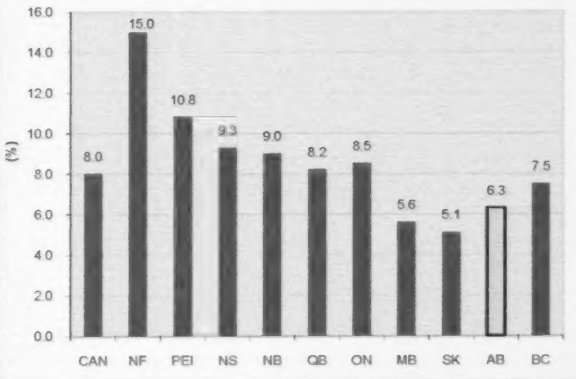
Real GDP Growth
(2009 year-over-year growth, preliminary estimate)



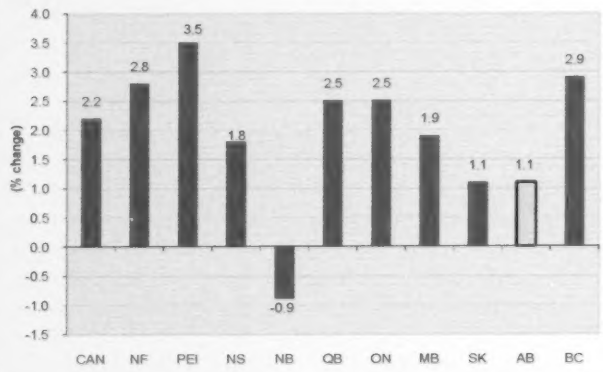
CPI Inflation
(July year-over-year % change)



Unemployment Rate
(July 2010, Seasonally Adjusted)

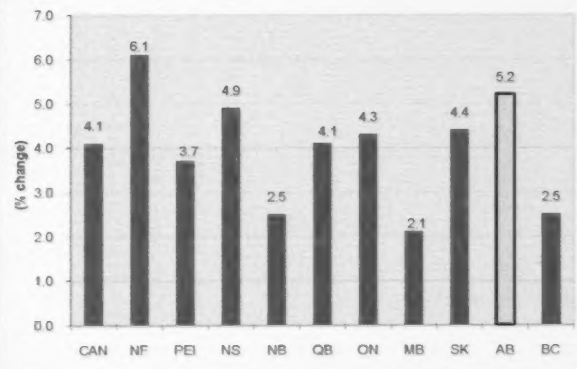


Employment
(July year-over-year growth)



NEW!

Average Weekly Earnings
(June year-over-year growth)



Housing Starts
(SAAR July 2010)